UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.5/1993/3
21 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-third session
Vienna, 8 to 17 February 1993
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

State of preparations for the International Year of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General

*E/CN.5/1993/1.

V.92-59658 8767T

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. It designated the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the Year.

2. In its resolution 45/133, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it to the Commission for Social Development for consideration at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

3. At its forty-sixth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 46/92, in which it approved for implementation the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family" (E/CN.5/1991/2); requested the relevant United Nations preparatory and coordinating bodies to keep preparations for the Year under constant review; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-third session on the state of its preparations.

4. The present report is submitted in response to the General Assembly's request. It presents a number of conclusions on the preparatory process and suggests further measures for a successful observance of the Year, based on a review of measures taken and planned at national, regional and international levels. It should be read in conjunction with the previous Secretary-General's report (A/46/362) on progress made in the preparations for the International Year of the Family which summarized the state of preparations for the Year up to mid-1991.

I. CONCLUSIONS

A. Current situation

5. The International Year of the Family has gained increasing support and attracted a growing number of partners at all levels. The preparatory process has succeeded in further promoting and anchoring the substantive orientation of the Year, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/82 and 46/92. A large number of Governments and an impressive array of organizations are actively engaged in preparatory activities.

6. Considerable progress has been made in preparing for the Year. The targets set for the preliminary phase in 1991 and the preparatory phase in the biennium 1992-1993 included establishing and activating organizational structures, identifying and tackling priority issues, initiating a concerted promotional and information campaign and focusing on activities to prepare for the Year. The review of the process at the mid-point of the preparatory phase indicates that measures have been taken and discernable progress made in all these areas.

7. At the national level, more than 100 countries have initiated action for the Year. Measures have included the setting up of a national coordinating mechanism, elaboration of a national programme of action and identification by Governments of a focal point for the Year. Several countries have identified priorities for the Year and initiated programme measures to tackle them, and are carrying out active promotional and information campaigns.

8. Specific measures are being taken at the regional level. The regional commissions of the United Nations Secretariat are playing an important role in the preparations for the Year and a number of regional intergovernmental organizations are actively involved in them. Planned activities include four regional preparatory meetings for the Year and expert group meetings on family topics.

9. At the international level, several bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system are actively participating in the preparations for the Year. Measures have been taken to facilitate collaboration and coordination among them. Several activities have been initiated within the context of ongoing family-related programmes. The existing public information mechanisms are being used to promote the Year. The secretariat for the International Year of the Family in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has served as a catalyst, facilitator and coordinator of action. It has carried out various substantive, organizational and promotional activities. Numerous intergovernmental organizations are becoming increasingly involved in the activities. A large number of non-governmental organizations are major actors in the preparations for the Year and important partners of Governments and the United Nations system. Research and academic institutions are also paying a great deal of attention to family issues. Further steps have been taken to execute the special initiative of the First Lady of Costa Rica, entitled "First Ladies for the Family".

10. It has been possible to mobilize some resources for the preparation and observance of the Year. Several Governments have made or pledged contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family and some significant contributions have been received from the private sector. Several in-kind contributions have also been received from Governments and firms in the private sector.

11. Notwithstanding these achievements, it should be pointed out that, in several countries, very little action has been taken to prepare for and observe the Year. The same may be said of several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which have a strong substantive interest in family issues and enormous potential to contribute to the Year. Evidence also suggests that the message of the Year has not everywhere permeated to the local and grass-root levels. To achieve the objectives of the Year, it is therefore necessary to intensify efforts in all areas and at all levels in the remaining period of the preparatory phase and to carry out a concerted and effective programme of observance.

B. Prerequisites for a successful observance of the Year

12. The following are considered essential measures for a successful observance of the Year:

(a) Nationally, it is crucial that preparatory measures be undertaken immediately in countries where this has not yet been done. It is extremely important that all countries should set up without delay national coordinating committees or similar mechanisms for the Year, or should entrust responsibility to existing bodies for the preparation and observance of the Year. In countries where preparatory measures are already under way, those measures should be intensified;

(b) All countries should set the end of 1993 as a target date for finalizing a programme for the observance of the Year. Measures should be

taken to implement it, including the allocation of adequate resources. The initiation and furtherance of family legislation and family-oriented policies should be an integral part of the programme. Programme elements could also include the inauguration of the Year's observance and other promotional and public information activities, involving the most senior political figures and making effective use of mass communication;

(c) All countries should endeavour to involve every segment of society, in particular the voluntary and private sectors, in the preparation and observance of the Year. Specific and targeted steps should be taken to reach and involve the community and grass-root organizations, as well as families themselves. Local initiatives, in particular, should be given support;

(d) The momentum of preparations at the regional level should be sustained and measures taken to support national efforts to observe the Year. The regional commissions should be given the necessary resources to strengthen their involvement, in particular by carrying out technical assistance programmes and policy-oriented research analysis and intensifying their collaboration with regional governmental and non-governmental organizations;

(e) At the international level, organizations should intensify their support for the Year within the context of their ongoing family-related programmes. Attention should be given to special measures for observing the Year and to the provision of technical and financial assistance to developing and least developed countries. Greater involvement of regional and national offices is of particular importance. The Year could be included in the agendas of the 1993 and 1994 meetings of intergovernmental bodies. Consideration should also be given to allocating resources for observance and follow-up activities in programme budgets of the organizations concerned for 1994 and 1995;

(f) The active participation of non-governmental organizations should be further encouraged and their efforts supported by substantive, technical and financial support. In particular, full use should be made of their experience and grass-root links to promote local and national participation and action. They should be fully involved as partners in the efforts of Governments and the United Nations system;

(g) The World NGO Forum on Launching the International Year of the Family, organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family in collaboration with its counterparts in New York and Paris, to be held in Malta from 28 November to 2 December 1993, will be a good opportunity to mark the beginning of the observance of the Year and to mobilize and harmonize action at all levels. Support for the Forum should come from active participation, substantive contributions and assistance to enable grass-root representatives from developing and least developed countries to attend the event;

(h) A concerted promotional and information campaign at the national, regional and international levels is essential, with greater participation of the mass media. It is important that both the general public and the grass-root and community organizations should be reached by the campaign;

(i) Resources still need to be mobilized. More generous contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Preparation for and the Observance of the Year are

crucial, particularly for activities in developing countries, technical assistance programmes and basic promotional and public information activities. Donor Governments and agencies, as well as private enterprises, should be encouraged to contribute to the Fund. Special efforts should be made to mobilize financial and in-kind contributions from the private sector;

(j) In view of the meagre staff resources of the secretariat for the Year, Governments and organizations should seriously consider the possibility of seconding staff to the secretariat;

(k) To complement and support national and regional action, a few selected activities at the international level in observance of the Year are vital.

II. REVIEW OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

A. National level

13. In its resolution 46/92, the General Assembly invited all Governments to step up their efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and reaffirmed its invitation to all States to establish national coordinating mechanisms. Various measures have been taken or initiated at the national level, as indicated in communications received from Governments and other information. As may be seen from the following list, as of 20 November 1992, 73 countries have established national coordinating mechanisms; national programmes of action have been formulated or are being developed in 71 countries; and 86 Governments have designated national focal points for liaison with the secretariat. The data are not definitive, because some countries may not yet have informed the secretariat of their actions.

Status of preparations for the International Year of the Family as of 20 November 1992

Albania a/, b/, c/
Antigua and Barbuda a/
Argentina a/, c/
Australia a/, b/, c/
Austria a/, b/, c/
Bahrain a/, b/
Bangladesh a/
Barbados a/, b/, c/
Belarus a/, b/, c/
Belgium a/, b/, c/
Benin a/
Bolivia a/, b/, c/
Cameroon a/, b/, c/
Canada a/, b/, c/
Chile a/, b/, c/
Colombia a/, b/, c/
Congo a/, b/
Costa Rica a/, b/, c/
Côte d'Ivoire a/, b/, c/
Cuba a/, b/, c/
Cyprus a/, b/, c/
Czechoslovakia a/, b/
Denmark a/, b/, c/
Ecuador a/, b/, c/
Ethiopia a/, b/
Finland a/, b/, c/
France a/, b/, c/
Germany a/, b/, c/
Ghana a/, b/
Greece a/, b/, c/
Guinea a/, b/
Guyana a/, b/
Holy See a/, b/, c/
Hungary a/, b/, c/
Iceland a/, b/, c/
India a/
Indonesia a/, b/, c/
Iraq a/, b/, c/
Israel a/, b/, c/
Jamaica a/, c/
Japan b/
Jordan a/, b/, c/
Kuwait b/, c/
Lesotho b/, c/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya a/, b/, c/
Lithuania a/, b/, c/
Luxembourg a/, b/, c/
Madagascar a/, b/, c/
Malawi a/, b/
Malaysia a/, b/, c/
Maldives a/, b/, c/
Malta a/, b/, c/
Mauritius a/, b/, c/
Mexico a/, b/, c/
Morocco a/, b/, c/

Namibia a/, c/
Nepal a/, c/
Netherlands a/, b/
New Zealand a/, b/, c/
Nigeria a/, b/, c/
Norway a/, c/
Oman a/
Panama a/
Papua New Guinea a/, c/
Philippines a/, b/, c/
Poland a/, b/, c/
Portugal a/, b/, c/
Russian Federation a/, b/, c/
Rwanda b/, c/
Saint Lucia a/, c/
Saudi Arabia a/, c/
Senegal a/, b/, c/
Singapore a/, b/, c/
South Africa a/, b/, c/
Spain a/, b/, c/
Sudan a/, b/, c/
Sweden a/, b/, c/
Switzerland a/, c/
Syrian Arab Republic a/, b/, c/
Thailand c/
Tunisia a/, b/, c/
Turkey a/, b/, c/
Ukraine a/, b/, c/
United Arab Emirates a/
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland a/
United Republic of Tanzania a/, c/
United States of America a/, b/, c/
Uruguay a/, b/, c/
Venezuela a/, b/, c/
Zaire a/
Zambia a/, b/, c/

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a/ Designation of a national focal point for the Year.

b/ Formulation of a national programme of action for the Year.

c/ Establishment of a national coordinating committee for the Year.

14. In most countries, national mechanisms have been established at a senior political level. Several are headed by the president or prime minister of the country; most are composed of representatives from various ministries, other government agencies and non-government organizations. In several countries, there is a wide national representation in the mechanism, including prominent personalities, the private sector and the mass media. A large number of national mechanisms have set up subcommittees and working groups to facilitate work, particularly on programme priorities.

15. Major elements of national programmes for the Year include raising awareness, streamlining and developing policies and programmes for improving the socio-economic conditions of families, enhancing the rights and well-being of family members as well as dealing with specific issues of direct relevance to families. For reasons of space, the following examples of national programmes and activities are merely illustrative. A more detailed inventory of national action for the Year is contained in a separate publication.

16. In Albania, the plans being developed for the Year will be focused, in particular, on efforts to increase public awareness of the problems of families, with particular emphasis on the situation of women.

17. In Australia, the emphasis will be on eliminating domestic violence and sharing responsibilities within families. In November 1992, an active programme of preparations for the Year was launched at the the National Family Summit.

18. The National Committee for the Year in Austria has set up two subcommittees and 15 working groups to draw up and implement a national programme of action. The programme concentrates on the following priorities: violence, living space, housing, employment, youth, older persons, compensation for contributions, disability, different family forms, special burdens, the legal system, health, society, the media and education.

19. The National Committee in Barbados has seven substantive subcommittees. A survey of the various aspects of the family is envisaged. A campaign to encourage the involvement of the private sector in the programme is also planned.

20. The national programme of Belarus includes measures for making people aware of the Year and is designed to enhance the status of the family in society, to study the problems of various forms of families and to create conditions to strengthen them.

21. In Belgium, activities for the Year are being planned at the national, community and local levels through coordinating bodies at all levels.

22. In Bolivia, a media campaign is being launched to publicize the Year and the importance of family support. Seminars and workshops are planned, as is a study of different family structures. A project is under way to support families with basic problems.

23. In Cameroon, the National Coordinating Committee is promoting projects to study the situation of families and to strengthen government family services concerned with health, nutrition, education, employment and the environment.

24. The Government of Canada has been providing wide-ranging and strong support to activities for the Year at the international, national and provincial levels. Many impressive projects have been developed, including a series of television programmes, a federal communication strategy, a substantial research strategy and a catalogue of existing family services and funding sources.

25. In Chile, the National Committee serves as an advisory body to the country's President. The plan of action includes review and appraisal studies, draft legislation, seminars on legislation, information campaigns, training and regional meetings.

26. Action is under way in Colombia to draw up and implement the national programme, to coordinate relevant activities and evaluate family policies of governmental and non-governmental organizations, to stimulate the integration of family programmes into national strategies for social development and to promote public awareness on the Year and the family.

27. The Government of Costa Rica has taken a number of international and national actions in support of the Year.

28. Under the National Coordinating Committee of Côte d'Ivoire, seven thematic subcommittees have been set up to deal with priority issues identified for the Year. Television and radio transmissions, conferences and debates on the Year are also planned.

29. In Cuba, the National Coordinating Committee is developing an integrated programme for the Year; it is studying the quality of family life and taking measures to promote changes in attitudes, so that men and women may share, on an equal basis, the responsibility of educating children in the home, family and society.

30. The Government of Czechoslovakia has carried out a basic review of existing family policies and proposed that the Bratislava International Centre of Family Studies be affiliated with the United Nations.

31. The Government of Denmark plans to establish a national coordinating committee soon. A national conference on the role of the family in the 1990s, to be held in 1994, will focus on the new and changing role of the family, with special regard to young parents and the relationship between the elderly and the family.

32. A number of projects for the Year are being developed in Ecuador, with a particular emphasis on families living in difficult circumstances.

33. In Finland, the priorities for national action are equality between the sexes, the balancing of family budgets and costs, family housing, the prevention of accidents and self-destructive behaviour and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle in the family.

34. The Government of France has set in motion a number of important initiatives, including research and development activities, through the Haut Conseil de la Population et de la Famille.

35. In Germany, following an intensive preparatory phase, the National Commission for the Year has set up nine working groups on different priority issues. A far-reaching programme of activities is being prepared.

36. The national action programme in Greece supplies information on the importance and role of the family. A national congress will be organized to provide a forum for the exchange of opinions and to submit proposals.

37. The national programme being drawn up in Hungary will include research and studies on the situation of families, dissemination of their results and promotional activities to encourage the active participation of the private and voluntary sectors.

38. Iceland has a plan of action that includes a comprehensive family policy, a public awareness campaign and specific services to improve the welfare of families with young children. Research has been undertaken on the situation of families and a study on single-parent families financed.

39. Priority issues for national action in Indonesia include population growth and uneven population distribution, high infant and maternity mortality rates, slum areas in urban cities, high divorce rates, inadequate safe and healthy employment conditions, and lack of awareness of the public means of legal recourse.

40. Iraq will prepare a conference on family issues, initiate surveys and convene an expert seminar on key issues affecting families.

41. Activities planned in Israel include a report on the state of the family, a compilation of selected Israeli laws on the family and a compendium of services for the family, research on the effects on families of intergenerational poverty and unemployment, and an evaluation of programmes on family violence.

42. Priorities identified by the Government of Jamaica include agriculture, family life education, day care, health, parent support services, family caregiving and community development.

43. Activities planned by the Government of Japan include research on the revitalization of home education, parental support initiatives, adult education

and lectures on women's issues, and the dissemination of information on women and the family. A series of annual seminars on home education will be convened and the international exchange of information strengthened.

44. In Jordan, programmes for the Year have been designed to advance the cause of the family in such fields as health, nutrition and guidance, with emphasis on remote rural and nomadic areas and underdeveloped districts in large towns. A review is being conducted of existing legislation concerning the family.

45. The national programme in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya includes legislative measures, the preparation of a permanent national forum to deal with issues of the family and the holding of debates, workshops and local meetings.

46. Preparatory measures being undertaken in Lithuania include legislation concerning social guarantees for motherhood and childhood, financial assistance to vulnerable and large families, and policies regarding family life and employment.

47. In Luxembourg, the National Coordinating Committee has set up seven working groups to formulate a national action programme for the Year, taking into consideration families at risk and families suffering from emotional failures, social isolation and material deprivation.

48. In Malaysia, the goal is to strengthen the family as a social institution, with a view to developing human resources and enhancing the family's quality of life. The programme comprises three areas of activities: education, training and research.

49. In Maldives, the plan of action includes reviews of legislation and research on family-related problems and the effects of macro-economic changes on family life. Other priorities are poverty, health, child abuse, infant health, family planning, marriage counselling and a curriculum for youth.

50. The national action programme in Malta has identified the following priorities: lack of preparation for marriage; adverse propaganda on television resulting in a lack of values; financial overburdening; a lack of investment in the teaching of skills to parents; alcohol and drug abuse; and working mothers.

51. In Mauritius, the National Coordinating Committee seeks to sensitize family organizations, social development agencies, associations of older persons, youth and children, and trade unions to the objectives of the Year. Extensive use of the media is included as part of the programme.

52. In Mexico, priority areas for the Year include nutrition, health, education, family planning and the participation of families in programmes of social assistance. The involvement of families in an anti-drug abuse campaign is being promoted.

53. The National Preparatory Commission of Morocco has set up working groups on economics, education, culture and information, law, health and the environment, particular cases and immigrant families. It has prepared a national charter on the family, which has subsequently been approved in a broad public discussion.

54. In Nepal, a national action plan is being finalized. Steps have also been initiated to identify priorities and mobilize resources for its implementation.

55. In New Zealand, the Year is seen as an opportunity to acknowledge the diversity of family structures in the country. The national programme seeks to strengthen the ability of families to meet their own needs, and of family members to meet their responsibilities in relation to other members and to resolve difficulties without recourse to violence or litigation.

56. The initial national programme in Nigeria consists of a review and enactment of family laws and various promotional and public information activities. A family week has been celebrated every year since 1984.

57. In the Philippines, action has been started at the local level. A survey has been made of the situation of families, focusing on the factors that weaken them, as well as their opportunities and strengths.

58. Priority issues in the national programme in Poland include social promotion and the protection of the family, in which the family is presented as a factor of human and cultural values, promotion of environmental and health issues, and family-related legislation and analysis.

59. The commission for the Year in Portugal is fostering awareness of the importance of the family, an improvement in the national institutional capacity to execute family policy, elaboration of a report on the situation of the family and publication of a book on family matters. A commemorative medal and commemorative postage stamps are planned.

60. Priority issues in the Russian Federation include the changing roles of men and women within the family, the problems of disadvantaged families and in particular the very poor, the situation of single-parent and migrant families, income levels and unemployment, and the reconciliation of family and work obligations.

61. In Saudi Arabia, a detailed programme of services to families has been drawn up, covering social services, health, education, care and rehabilitation of disabled persons, housing and development. Priorities include education in family life, the expansion of preventive health programmes, maternal and child health, credit services and the strengthening of family ties.

62. In Senegal, in addition to five commissions of the National Coordinating Committee, committees have also been set up in 10 regions of the country. A series of meetings has already been held on such issues as family and health, family and AIDS, family and development, a socio-cultural review of families and the socio-economic promotion of families.

63. In Singapore, the Advisory Council on Family and Community Life is seeking to identify socio-economic trends that might affect families and family life, examine how family life and family functioning can be enhanced, review existing programmes and services and recommend to the Government specific policies and measures. A national conference for the Year is also envisaged.

64. The priority issues for the Year in South Africa include high divorce rates, family violence, child neglect and abuse, alcoholism and drug addiction,

changes in value systems and family roles. The action plan is being decentralized to reach the grass roots.

65. In Spain, a study is being undertaken on the situation of the family, with a view to identifying the social needs of families. Preparations are under way to establish a national coordinating committee.

66. In the Sudan, the strategy for the advancement of the family is an integral part of the comprehensive national strategy for socio-economic development in the country. The action plan for the Year will be implemented at local, provincial, state and federal levels.

67. In Thailand, the Government has declared 14 April as Family Day.

68. Specific measures already taken by the Government of Tunisia include the creation of a fund to assist single-parent families and the introduction of specific regulations in the labour code on non-discrimination by gender in employment. A secretary of State for women and family has been appointed in the Prime Minister's Office.

69. In Turkey, the national programme includes a broad range of activities such as promotion, research, publications, films, conferences and family weeks. A national policy on family issues is being developed.

70. Priority issues identified in Ukraine include the family as an agent for the preservation of human values, cultural identity and continuity, family law, family budgets, family health, fertility and birth control, drug and alcohol addiction, and basic principles of family welfare policy.

71. In the United States of America, an administration for children and families has been created to target and coordinate the various child and family programmes. At the federal level, the "Head Start" programme provides comprehensive services for families with low incomes and their pre-school children. Departments of federal and State governments have undertaken specific measures to promote the Year, including the Department of Agriculture, the Library of Congress and the Peace Corps.

72. In Venezuela, the Government has stressed the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors for the Year. An advisory committee has been set up. Research on family problems, particularly on the priority issues of nutrition, education and health, will be intensified.

73. The work of the National Committee in Zambia is centred on awareness-raising, participation, stimulation, effectiveness and collaboration on matters affecting the family. Work has begun on the elaboration of a national programme of activities.

74. In the Holy See, the Pontifical Council for the Family, the designated coordinating body, is promoting awareness of the Year, particularly among bishops, at episcopal conferences and in catholic organizations and movements working for the family throughout the world. A series of expert and study meetings has been organized on related themes, including human rights, drug addiction and children in the context of family problems.

B. Regional level

75. Regional activities to prepare for and observe the Year, aimed at supporting and supplementing national efforts, are crucial to the success of the Year. Several measures have already been taken and many others are under way. The regional commissions of the United Nations Secretariat are playing a lead role and are cooperating closely with the secretariat for the Year. A number of regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are also actively involved.

76. One important planned activity is the holding of four regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the Year, initiated by the secretariat for the Year. The meetings will be organized in close cooperation with the respective regional commissions, at the invitation of host Governments. They will be attended by high-level representatives of Member States of the respective regional commissions, who are directly responsible for family policies and preparations for the Year. Observers from the United Nations organizations and agencies concerned and from relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will also be invited. The purpose of the meetings is to review the situation of families and identify regional priorities in the context of the respective social policy agendas, to review and further stimulate activities for the Year at the national and regional levels, to identify specific measures for the observance of the Year and to suggest recommendations on strategies and plans for the future.

77. The tentative schedule of the meetings is as follows:

(a) United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, to be held from 29 March to 2 April 1993 at Tunis, at the invitation of the Government of Tunisia and in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);

(b) United Nations Europe and North America Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, to take place from 26 to 30 April 1993 at Valletta, at the invitation of the Government of Malta and in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE);

(c) United Nations Asia and the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, to be held from 24 to 28 May 1993 at Beijing, at the invitation of the Government of China and in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), pursuant to the latter's resolution 47/13 (see paragraph 79 below);

(d) United Nations Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, to be held from 10 to 14 August 1993 at Cartagena, at the invitation of the Government of Colombia and in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

78. The regional commissions, in addition to their active involvement in convening the preparatory meetings, have taken other measures and carry out ongoing activities for the Year. ECE is organizing a European Population Conference at Geneva in March 1993, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Council of Europe. Theme 2 of the Conference is "Fertility and family".

79. In April 1991, ESCAP adopted resolution 47/13 1/ entitled "International Year of the Family", in which it, inter alia, urged all members and associate members to take prompt action to establish national coordinating mechanisms for the Year. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to convene, in 1993, a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting and to initiate a series of country studies on the role of the family in development. ESCAP also published, in 1991, a study entitled "The changing role of the family as a social institution in development in the Asian-Pacific region". The pivotal role of the family in development is recognized in the Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in October 1991. At its forty-eighth session, in 1992, the Commission again considered family issues and the preparations for the Year.

80. ECLAC is involved in three major areas of activities in support of the Year: promoting activities in the countries of the region and coordinating the regional efforts of United Nations agencies; providing up-to-date information on and analysis of the current status of the family; conducting and supporting policy-oriented studies and elaborating proposals for government action on the family. It convened a meeting on family, development and population dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean in November 1991 at Santiago de Chile, and another on methodologies for research on the family in October 1992 at Aguascalientes, Mexico. A seminar on family policy is envisaged for 1993.

81. ECA has initiated several studies and meetings related to the Year. It has prepared papers on family planning, the impact of the economic crisis and rapid population growth on the family, and refugees, and migrations and family life for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee for the Third African Population Conference. It will have serviced a roundtable on questions related to the African family at the Conference in December 1992 in Dakar. An expert group meeting on family issues is also planned. The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, affiliated to ECA, is preparing a study on the African family in the development process, in cooperation with UNFPA.

82. ESCWA, in September 1992, adopted resolution 186 (XVI) entitled "Preparation for the International Year of the Family", in which it, inter alia, appealed to its Member States to exert all possible efforts to promote awareness of the role of the family as a fundamental unit of society in furthering economic and social development in the region; and urged them, as well as international donors, to provide the secretariat of ESCWA with resources to hold a regional meeting in 1993. Pursuant to this resolution, the ESCWA secretariat plans to hold an expert group meeting. In 1992, ESCWA published a study entitled "Impact of socio-economic changes on the Arab family". It is undertaking an assessment of the situation of Arab women returnees as a result of the Persian Gulf war.

83. "North Americans for IYF" is a regional initiative in support of the Year organized on a voluntary basis in cooperation with the San Diego Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America. The group has undertaken a major information campaign focused on planning local activities and strengthening networks of people and organizations interested in family-related issues.

84. Several regional organizations, as well as regional offices and affiliates of international organizations, are carrying out activities in support of the

Year. These include the regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Their activities are described in subsections C.3 and C.4 below.

C. International level

1. Commission on the Status of Women

85. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/133, in which the Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to inform the Commission on the Status of Women on the preparations for the Year, the relevant portion 2/ of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session was provided accordingly to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

86. At its thirty-sixth session, the latter Commission adopted resolution 36/1, 3/ entitled "Advancement of women and the family", in which it recommended to the Commission for Social Development that it take account of a number of elements when preparing for the International Year of the Family.

2. International Conference on Population and Development

87. Efforts have been made to incorporate the interrelated substantive concerns of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the International Year of the Family in the preparations for both. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93, identified family-planning programmes, health and family well-being as one of the six groups of issues requiring the greatest attention in the context of the Conference. An expert group meeting on the topic was held at Bangalore, from 26 to 30 October 1992, at which a number of recommendations that had a direct bearing on the family were identified for consideration by the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. The expert group meeting also requested that its recommendations be brought to the attention of the Commission for Social Development in its capacity as the preparatory body for the International Year of the Family.

3. Intergovernmental organizations

88. Several intergovernmental organizations, including those in which families do not figure prominently as a focus of activities, have expressed strong support for the Year.* A number of them have established focal points for the Year. Measures planned or in progress include dissemination of information, organization of meetings and seminars, research and integration of a more pronounced family focus into existing activities.

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*Including: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Community, Colombo Plan for Co-operative and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, Council of Europe, Economic Community of West African States, Commission of the European Communities, European Economic Community, League of Arab States, Nordic Council, Nordic Council of Ministers, OPEC Fund for International Development, Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States, South African Development Coordination Conference and South Pacific Commission.

89. Activities of the African Development Bank related to the Year will be centred around the Bank's theme for the Year: "Food resources: production, distribution, availability and preparation and family income".

90. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) plans to carry out promotional activities for the Year at the regional level. A report on the preparations for the year will be discussed at the sixteenth ordinary session of its Labour and Social Commission, to be held at Cairo from 19 to 25 April 1993.

91. The Asian Development Bank continues to contribute to the Year by assisting developing member countries in their projects for rural development, education and training, public health, water supply and sanitation and population planning. The Bank is committed to supporting projects that will create jobs and increase the income of poor families, analysing the role of education in the development of women, with a focus on the interrelated roles of family members, and improving the living conditions of disadvantaged groups in poor families.

92. The Fund for International Development of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has supported several projects, through loans and grants, including special measures to promote family welfare.

93. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) considered the Year at its Fifth Meeting of Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs in 1991. The Meeting recommended a regional focus for the Year centred on family issues related to working wives and mothers, street children and children in difficult circumstances, and the impact of migration. Research will be conducted in these areas and on the Caribbean family, the changing role of women in families, changes and needs in the legal status of women, and crisis factors in the family. The findings will form the basis of a regional workshop, at which recommendations on a regional family policy and plan of action for 1994 will be developed.

94. The Organization of American States (OAS) has carried out research and consultations, through its focal point for the Year, the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI). IACI has developed an inventory of policy-makers, research institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies involved in family-related areas. It also plans to promote studies and research on family-related issues, consolidate and disseminate information, edit a bibliographical bulletin on family affairs and technical publications, and organize an institutional roster to facilitate regional exchange and inter-institutional coordination.

95. The Commission of the European Communities has been actively participating in the preparations for the Year. One such activity is an opinion survey, within the framework of the Eurobarometer project. The survey will serve as a basis for a major conference on the future of the family in 1994. The Commission also supports other research, development and policy activities in the community, including the European observatory on national family policies.

96. The Council of Europe has continued its strong support for the Year, in the context of its ongoing programme of activities related to family issues. The Council has done a survey of national family policy and a comparison of levels of responsibility for family issues. It held the twenty-second session of the Conference of the European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs in October 1991, at which preparations for the Year were considered. The Council

will hold the twenty-third session of the Conference in October 1993, at which programmes for the Year will again be discussed.

97. The Nordic Council, in cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers, is preparing a related activity: the Nordic Forum - 1994 on "Women's work and life". The Nordic Council of Ministers, through its Nordic Committee on Health and Social Affairs, discussed preparations for the Year at its meeting in October 1992.

4. Non-governmental organizations

98. A large number of national, regional and international non-governmental organizations have been actively preparing for the Year. They are engaged in a spectrum of activities, individually, bilaterally in cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental or other non-governmental organizations, as well as multilaterally in various forums that facilitate joint efforts. An increasing number of international non-governmental organizations are among the major actors in the preparatory process.* They include organizations with a family-specific or a broad social development focus, as well as others specializing in sectoral or group-specific issues.

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*Including: African Association of Education for Development, African Association for Literacy and Adult Education, Associated Country Women of the World, Caritas Internationalis, Christian Children's Fund Incorporated, Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Community, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, Crossways International, Disabled Peoples' International, Eurolink Age, European Union of Women, Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, Family Life Education Sub-Committee of the Non-Governmental Organizations Development Committee in Geneva, Foundation for the Rights of the Family - International Secretariat (PRODEFA), General Arab Women Federation, Group on the Family of the non-governmental organizations Standing Committee (UNESCO), Inter Press Service, International Abolitionist Federation, International Academy of Family Psychology, International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates, International Association of Lions Clubs, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Confederation of Midwives, International Co-operative Alliance, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Council on the Management of Population Programmes, International Council of Nurses, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation for Family Life Promotion, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation for Parent Education, International Federation of Disabled Workers and Civilian Handicapped, International Federation of Pedestrians, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, International Federation of Social Workers, International Friendship League, International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap, International Movement ATD Fourth World,

continued

99. Perhaps the single most important contribution by non-governmental organizations to the preparatory process has been their extensive efforts to bring the message of the Year to the grass roots, community organizations and families themselves, using, in particular, their wide network of contacts and channels of communication. For example, several organizations have or will soon have published articles on the Year or written circular letters. The emblem of the Year has been used extensively, on stationery and elsewhere, and large quantities of information and promotional material have been produced and distributed.

100. Some organizations have set up special organizational structures, while others are drawing on existing ones. For example, Caritas Internationalis has set up a working group; the Disabled Peoples' International has established a task force; the International Union of Family Organizations has initiated a steering committee; and the Salvation Army has set up an advisory group. The European Union of Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, Pax Romana and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations use existing working groups or commissions on the family. A planning committee has been set up by several non-governmental organizations related to the Roman Catholic Church to develop a common response to the Year.

101. Measures for the Year are being incorporated in the programme activities of the non-governmental organizations. Some organizations have drawn up policy and position papers on the family as a guide to participation in the Year while others have adopted pertinent resolutions. For example, the World Council of the Disabled Peoples' International adopted a discussion paper on the Year and Socialist International Women recently adopted a resolution entitled "The Family - Women's Responsibility?".

102. Some organizations have developed specific programmes for the Year, focusing on substantive areas of direct concern to them. Programme elements

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(continued) International Organization of Consumer's Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Round Table for Advancement of Counselling, International Social Security Association, International Social Science Council, International Society on Family Law, International Sociological Association, International Union of Family Organizations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, La Leche League International, Law Association for Asian and the Western Pacific, Mother And Child International (International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health), New Humanity Movement, NGO Committee on the Family in New York, NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna, NGO Committee on UNICEF, Pax Romana, Rehabilitation International, Rotary International, Salvation Army, Save the Children Fund, Socialist International, Socialist International Women, Soroptimist International, SOS Children's Villages, Special NGO Committee on Development, United Nations/Non-Governmental Organization Group on Women and Development, Union of Arab Jurists, United Schools International, World Assembly of Youth, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Leisure and Recreation Association, World Movement of Mothers, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, and Zonta International.

include promotional activities, meetings or seminars on family issues to identify priorities and strategies to deal with them and to promote information and experience exchange, research and studies on family issues, training, and family-specific projects. For example, the International Union of Family Organizations has developed a plan for the Year, which includes the organization of a series of world conferences on the rights of families. The international secretariat of the Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA) is focusing on the drafting of a declaration on the rights of the family and has held a series of meetings on the topic. The General Arab Women Federation plans to hold national and international seminars and lectures on the Arab family and Arab women. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions will focus on promoting the ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 156 concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities. The International Council of Women focuses on promoting the role of the father and women's issues and has held an international conference entitled "Changing families, changing men and women, changing societies". The International Social Security Association focuses on family benefits schemes and State intervention, participation of women in the labour market and dual family incomes, and adaptation to the new needs of families. The New Families Movement of the New Humanity Movement plans to hold an international congress for families, entitled "Familyfest '93", in Rome on 5 June 1993, to be simultaneously transmitted on television in various parts of the world.

103. The 88th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in September 1992, decided to consider specific measures for the Year at its next conference in April 1993 and to incorporate relevant activities in its programme for 1994.

104. Field projects to support families are also planned by non-governmental organizations in observance of the Year. For instance, SOS Children's Villages International is developing a project to support 5000 destitute families in their various needs, for example by building houses and providing clean water and assistance in the education of children.

105. To promote awareness of the principles and objectives of the Year, several organizations held special sessions on the Year during their regular organizational or other scheduled meetings, while others have included the Year in the agendas for forthcoming events. Several others are preparing to organize major events on the Year or family-specific topics. Details on several of these and other activities are contained in the list of events related to the Year, which will be available to the Commission as a background document.

106. Organizations are promoting the global exchange of information on and experience with family policies and programmes through meetings and publications. The International Federation for Home Economics devoted its Eighteenth World Congress to the theme "Focusing on Households and Families: Change and Exchange" and a panel discussion on influencing family policies was held at the Congress. The Federation also published a study entitled "Families in transition". At its World Assembly '92, the International Federation of Social Workers held a panel on ways of strengthening families. The International Federation of Disabled Workers and Civilian Handicapped will organize a congress on the disabled in the family and a seminar on the young disabled in the family. In 1992, Rotary International held special presentations on the family at its annual convention and at its regional conference on the changing face of Europe. The International Social Security Association will feature

articles on the Year in its International Social Security Review. The International Society on Family Law publishes an annual review of developments regarding national family laws. The joint United Nations/Non-Governmental Organization Group on Women and Development has completed a publication entitled Women and the Family as part of its Women and World Development series.

107. Non-governmental organizations, including the Committee on Family Research of the International Sociological Association and the International Academy of Family Psychology are promoting research and the collection of data on family issues by the non-governmental organizations. The International Social Security Association carries out research on the family as a factor in social protection. The International Catholic Child Bureau is conducting a survey on the situation of the African family and the International Movement ATD Fourth World is carrying out a study entitled "Families in conditions of extreme poverty". Both projects are supported by the Voluntary Fund for the Year.

108. Attention is also being given to introducing a family focus into training programmes. Family components have been incorporated in training programmes by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Disabled People's International and the International Federation of Social Workers. The International Association of Schools of Social Work is developing new curricula on the family.

109. Regional non-governmental organizations are also involved in preparations for the Year. The Confederation of Family Organizations in the European Community discussed the Year in its Administrative Council and organized a conference on disadvantaged families. The regional offices of the International Co-operative Alliance disseminated information and encouraged member organizations to initiate activities. A regional seminar of South Asian non-governmental organizations, held in November 1991 in Bangladesh and arranged by the International Council on the Management of Population Programmes, developed plans for the Year and set up a working group to organize a regional seminar in 1994.

110. Several organizations are activating their national affiliates and helping them to contribute to national and local preparations and observances, including active participation in the national coordinating mechanisms. For example, the Associated Country Women of the World sent a questionnaire and leaflet on the Year to its member societies and the International Planned Parenthood Federation provided its affiliates with relevant material. The national affiliates of the African Association of Education for Development and the African Association for Literacy and Adult Education are actively involved in preparations for the Year.

111. National organizations have promoted the establishment of national coordinating mechanisms for the Year and are playing an active role in their work. For example, the Canadian Committee of the International Union of Family Organizations set up "Families: Horizon 1994" to promote and organize the Year. In Switzerland, Pro Familia Schweiz has been designated by the Government to lead the preparatory work for the creation of a national committee. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a group of voluntary organizations has established an association for the Year and its work is being supported by the Government. Voluntary organizations are major actors on the national committees in Austria and Germany.

112. National organizations have also embarked upon specific preparatory activities for the Year. In Brazil, the National Confederation of Natural Family Planning Centres is preparing several activities. In France, the Association des Collectifs Enfants, Parents, Professionels organized a European colloquy, which discussed preparations for the Year. In India, several voluntary organizations have initiated action for the Year. The Management Institute for Social Change in Malaysia is developing a number of activities. The Council for Families and Other Living Arrangements in the Netherlands will promote the development and dissemination of ideas on the Year. The Family Planning Association of Pakistan has developed a comprehensive project to observe the Year at the national and local levels. The Swiss Evangelical Alliance is organizing a competition on ideas to promote the Year.

113. A distinguishing feature of efforts by the non-governmental organizations at the international level has been their strong support for and an active involvement in platforms that foster and facilitate multilateral cooperation and joint activities. Prominent examples have been the NGO Committees on the Family in New York and at Vienna and the Group on the Family of the non-governmental organizations Standing Committee (UNESCO) in Paris.

114. The non-governmental organizations Committee on the Family at Vienna, which has set up a non-governmental organization executive secretariat for the Year, has played a significant role in promoting the Year at various levels and has carried out valuable promotional and substantive work. For example, it has prepared and widely distributed various promotional and substantive material. It is developing a model plan for an information day on the Year. It also publishes a newsletter, "Families International". It has carried out substantive work in several areas, such as family rights and the family as an economic unit. It has organized four international meetings on the family, including the recently held international seminar entitled "Family and Environment: a Partnership". To encourage further action and participation, the Committee will organize, in cooperation with its counterparts in New York and Paris, a world non-governmental organization forum entitled "Launching the International Year of the Family 1994: Strengthening Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies", to be held at Valletta, Malta, from 28 November to 2 December 1993.

115. The non-governmental organizations Committee on the Family in New York has continued to exchange information, stimulate action and facilitate inputs for the Year. It has held meetings on various family issues, together with the Non-Governmental Organizations Committees on the Status of Women, on Ageing, on Narcotics and Substance Abuse and on Sustainable Development and the Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The topics covered included: the Year and its possible impact on the advancement of women; domestic violence; ageing in a changing family; mid-life and older women; family: help or hindrance to substance abuse; families as agents of development at the local level; and the family in support of the rights of the child. The Committee has also pursued its series of consultations on family issues and has continued to focus on the role of fathers in contemporary family life. It has set up a task force to plan programmes for the observance of the Year.

116. The Group on the Family of the non-governmental organizations Standing Committee (UNESCO) has continued to carry out several promotional and

substantive activities. In March 1992, it organized an international symposium on educational functions of the family and cultural change. The Group has also prepared a major substantive publication entitled "The family, new dynamics".

117. Several other forums of non-governmental organizations have also been involved in the preparations for the Year. The Family Life Education Sub-Committee of the non-governmental organizations Development Committee in Geneva plans to serve as a focal point for the dissemination of information. The NGO Committee on UNICEF has integrated the Year into its activities and plans to organize a forum. Other groups involved include the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, the Special Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Development and the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. Research and academic institutions

118. Specific activities are being undertaken or planned within many research institutions and universities to prepare for and observe the Year. Examples include research on family issues by the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh; an international conference on family nursing, to be organized by McGill University and the University of Montreal in Canada; a research programme on family policy in Europe by the Institut de l'enfance et de la famille, in Paris; interdisciplinary family studies developed by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India; study on changes in African families by the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect in Kenya; promotion of research on families by the Instituto Mexicano de Estudios Sociales in Mexico; a meeting entitled "Family in a changing world", to be held by the Institute of Family Studies of the Pontifical University of Salamanca in Spain; an international conference on family law to be held by the International Society of Family Law, with the support of the Faculty of Law of the Uppsala University in Sweden; and a bibliographical service and survey by IACI in Uruguay. Several universities in the United States of America are planning activities, such as an international conference on family issues, to be organized by Rowan College of New Jersey, in conjunction with the St. Petersburg State College in Russia; a family studies centre at Oregon State University; a comparative study on support systems for families at Clemson University; curriculum development on family issues at Central Washington University, Seattle; and a clearing-house and international directory of innovative programmes for families and high-risk youth through the National Center for Social Policy and Practice, Maryland.

119. The Australian Institute of Family Studies is taking a lead role in promoting research on family issues and mobilizing research institutions around the world in support of the Year. It conducts consultation services and provides assistance in establishing an international research network. On the initiative of the secretariat for the Year, it is also developing a guide to assist the developing countries in particular in the planning and execution of family research. To facilitate its collaboration with the secretariat for the Year, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Institute and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

120. Moreover, several countries and organizations have identified research bodies to act as focal points or organizers of programmes for the Year. Likewise, research activities figure prominently in the national action programmes of countries and organizations.

6. United Nations system

121. In addition to the regional commissions of the United Nations Secretariat, whose activities are described in section B above, many other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system have taken various measures to prepare for and observe the Year. These have included the initiation of new activities for the Year, the reformulation of ongoing family-related activities to achieve effective contributions towards the Year, execution of interagency projects and participation in the work of the ad hoc interagency mechanism. A focal point for the Year has been designated in 23 organizations, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Secretariat.*

122. In the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the Population Division and the Statistical Office carry out various activities related to the family and the Year. The Population Division, within its general work programme, undertakes research related to the family, including nuptiality and marital status, reproduction, contraception and family formation, ageing and the family, and migration and the family. In preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the Division, in cooperation with UNFPA, has convened an expert group meeting on family planning, health and family well-being. In cooperation with the secretariat for the Year, the Statistical Office is preparing a statistical chart on families, which will reflect relevant statistics that are available for some 170 countries and areas, supplemented by special statistical panels.

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*Within the United Nations Secretariat, the following offices are involved in the preparations for the Year: Department for Economic and Social Development (Population Division and Statistical Office), Department of Administration and Management (Office of Conference Services), Department of Public Information, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Office at Vienna (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: Division for the Advancement of Women and Social Development Division), United Nations Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations Environment Programme. United Nations bodies include: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and United Nations University. Research institutes include: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Two joint bodies are involved: the World Food Council and the World Food Programme. The specialized agencies include: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

123. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat is carrying out various information activities, in close cooperation with the secretariat for the Year. A feature article on human rights and the family was produced and distributed worldwide in May 1992 as part of the United Nations Focus series. A series of public service television spots is being developed for television networks all over the world. The Department will produce an information kit for distribution worldwide to the media and non-governmental organizations, containing feature articles, fact sheets and graphics. It also plans to produce a 30-minute documentary film on ageing and the family or to support a series of television documentaries on the family.

124. Several programmes of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights are related to the goals of the Year, especially the enjoyment of human rights within the family and the role of the family in the promotion of individual's rights. The Centre is incorporating relevant elements of the Year in its activities, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25), preparations for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the World Conference for Human Rights (1993), as well as advisory services, technical assistance and a public information campaign on human rights.

125. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has identified four substantive areas for special attention in support of the objectives of the Year: improving the physical living conditions of families and households; supporting women-in-development issues, particularly the role of women in human settlements; improving the environmental health conditions of families and households in human settlements; and improving the living conditions of the elderly and disabled in human settlements. Most of its activities are directed towards the deteriorating physical living conditions of families, particularly in urban areas of developing countries. It has identified the community development programme as its specific contribution towards the Year. The World Habitat Day in 1992 highlighted the contribution of families in managing and maintaining clean and safe environmental living conditions. Specific themes highlighting the objectives of the Year will be identified in the four major areas of family-related activities; also the theme for the World Habitat Day in 1994 will focus on the Year.

126. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will focus its programme for the Year on promoting family reunification and supporting refugee families headed by a female. The Office recently sent a circular letter to all its field offices to increase staff awareness and encourage their active participation in the activities for the Year and will assist in conducting an awareness campaign on refugee families. Other activities will include preparing a paper on refugee families, assigning focal points at field level to develop special activities, initiating specific programmes on refugee families, highlighting refugee families in the UNHCR magazine and conducting competitions of drawings and essays for refugee children on family themes.

127. The contributions of UNICEF to the Year will be undertaken in the context of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (A/45/625, annex) and the Plan of Action for implementing it in the 1990s (ibid.) and of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In preparing for the Year, UNICEF has been undertaking a review of policies and programmes to assure that they take into account any effects they may have on the family. Of particular concern is equity between the sexes in both the roles and the

responsibilities of parents and children within the family. Families as the basic unit of society were the unit of analysis and the focus of action in most UNICEF-assisted programmes for the survival, development and protection of children. Its International Child Development Centre recently published a study entitled "Trends in the structure and stability of the family from 1950 to the present: the impact on child welfare". UNICEF is encouraging its country offices and national committees to assist in promoting the Year, both in local and regional activities, and, through its greeting card operation, in developing and marketing cards and products related to the Year.

128. UNFPA has been supporting several activities that pertain to the family, at both the interregional and the country levels. It is funding nine projects dealing directly with family concerns in Africa, seven in the Asia and Pacific region and seven in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also provides substantive support to the activities of non-governmental organizations relating to the family. In its substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, it will give attention to family-related questions. It will also involve its 60 country directors in the preparations for and observance of the Year.

129. The activities of UNDP are geared towards human development and thus affect and benefit families. UNDP focuses on families through women as agents and beneficiaries of development and seeks to promote a gender-in-development dimension. It has set the building of national capacity to integrate women into development. Other priority areas include the alleviation of poverty and HIV/AIDS.

130. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is planning a substantial input to the Year, which includes a paper on the relationship of environmental degradation and contamination to the health and functional capacity of the family unit.

131. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has shifted its focus from emergency services to more developmental and family-oriented services. Emphasis is now on the family as a focal point for care. The Agency's health programme has introduced family planning services as an integral part of maternal and child health services. The relief and social services programme seeks to support the family through special programmes for women, self-support projects and programmes to care for the disabled, aged and other vulnerable members of the family. To observe the Year, the education programme will promote activities by pupils and schools. Also planned are expert discussions on family issues, exhibitions, posters, bulletins, arts and crafts and essay competitions in schools.

132. The contributions of the United Nations University to the Year are in the area of family-related research. Its Human and Social Development Programme has prepared a publication on household, gender and age. Under the auspices of its World Institute for Development Economics Research, research and book projects are being carried out on the ethics of the new reproductive technologies and on social and demographic changes affecting the structure of the family. Consideration is being given to organizing a workshop on the effects of economic restructuring on family well-being and their social policy implications.

133. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women will focus on the evaluation of women's work in the household and the

informal sector as well as on the measures necessary for women's work to be adequately reflected in national development plans and programmes. It will seek to promote the equality of members of the household, underlining women's social and economic contributions to the well-being of the family.

134. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has given increased attention to family matters. Technical assistance and advisory services have been identified as major activities in support of the Year. The Institute plans to incorporate family-related projects in its work programme, including a bibliography on violence in the family and a qualitative analysis of the literature, an international comparative study on child abuse within the family, and a study on women in the criminal justice system.

135. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has identified a few priority areas, including the situation of households headed by a female, the impact of women's lack of access to production, inputs on the welfare of the family, the social and economic phenomena that contribute to the changing nature of the family, domestic violence and its implications for family welfare and development, and the role of the father. It will also carry out promotional and informational activities.

136. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme recognizes the role of the family in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. As part of its demand-reduction activities, it has published several booklets, including one dealing with the grass-root parent movement that has grown up in response to adolescent drug abuse.

137. The World Food Council (WFC) will underscore the complementarity of household and food security. A new item on the Council's agenda for 1992, dealing with linkages between migration and food security, introduced issues related to change and stress affecting family structure. The Council's secretariat is incorporating promotional elements for the Year in its activities.

138. The activities of the ILO in the defence and promotion of human rights, employment promotion and improvement of social security and welfare have a direct impact on the family. Its major contribution to the Year will be on the implementation of its Convention No. 156, concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities, and the corresponding Recommendation No. 165. It has established a Work, Gender and Family Section to coordinate activities on behalf of workers with family responsibilities. A survey is being conducted of measures taken throughout the world to implement the provisions of the Convention and the Recommendation. The International Labour Conference, at its 1994 and 1995 sessions, will consider standards on part-time work and a draft code of practice on working time arrangements. A review of maternity protection in law and practice is being carried out and a "Conditions of Work Digest" on measures taken worldwide to protect maternity will be published. Several projects target poor households and vulnerable household members, such as households headed by a female, home-based workers and landless women. A family welfare education programme is aimed at improving workers' living standards. A project on child labour has been launched. The technical advisory services of the social security programme promote the protection of family members. Specific measures for the Year's observance will focus on education and information activities.

139. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has taken various measures for the Year. FAO national representatives are being

kept informed of activities for the Year and asked to link with national structures dealing with the Year. Systematic liaison with the FAO regional offices is also being established. It is planned to set up a team on the Year, consisting of representatives from selected divisions of the Organization. The Year was considered by the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Women in Development, which identified core areas for participation. It is proposed that the family be selected as the theme for the 1994 World Food Day.

140. UNESCO is implementing numerous projects related to the family and the Year. Several expert meetings have been held or are planned with the intellectual and financial contribution of UNESCO. A joint UNFPA/UNESCO project on demographic change and family structure has been completed, which involved one international and five regional meetings on the future of the family. Family components have been incorporated in the population, family-life education and training projects. Universities and higher education institutes are being encouraged to integrate population and the family into their curricula. Research on gender roles and intergenerational relations within the family, educational projects that target children and families at risk and technical assistance projects are being pursued. The programme of observance of the Year will concentrate on the subtheme of "The family and formal and informal education in the contemporary world". Attention will be given to "family and education" and training of personnel in the field of family policies. A project on the young child and the family environment, a database, and a directory on the young child and the family will be developed. A world atlas on families will also be produced. Observance of the Year will also be incorporated in the programmes for the World Decade for Cultural Development.

141. The World Health Organization (WHO) regards its participation in the Year as an opportunity to foster renewed efforts and new approaches to family health policies and programmes within Member States. Its programmes on maternal and child health, family planning, and adolescent health and on women, health and development are being reviewed and approaches to family health programmes are being defined. A paper on HIV/AIDS and the family will be prepared. A publication on emerging needs in family health and an expert meeting on maternal and child health are planned. An issue of World Health in 1994 will be devoted to family health.

142. Several of the activities of the World Bank help to promote the objectives of the Year. Its Population and Human Resource Department is playing a useful role in promoting policies to improve the well-being of the family. The family and the household are used as a starting point for examining how families adjust to changed economic circumstances, what mechanisms they adopt to cope with hardships or to reap benefits from policy interventions, and studying aspects of family behaviour such as savings, consumption, labour force participation and migration. The Bank has issued a number of publications, including "Primary Education - a World Bank Policy Paper", "Effective Family Planning Programs" and "The Health of Adults in the Developing World".

143. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has been involved in activities of direct relevance to the family and the Year. Apart from the secretariat for the Year, the various programmes of its Social Development Division, dealing with crime prevention and criminal justice, developmental social welfare policies and programmes, youth policies and programmes, disability issues and population ageing have a direct bearing on the family. The family dimensions of these issues will be

highlighted and efforts made to promote the objectives of the Year. A special manual on domestic violence is being developed to help train personnel to deal with that problem. The Division also organized a seminar on the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasis on the family, as mandated by the Commission for Social Development.

144. The Centre's Division for the Advancement of Women has several activities that are closely related to family issues and highlight the need for a new social contract between family members. The Division's reports on the priority themes established by the Commission on the Status of Women highlight the benefits that the family and all the dependants in the household can reap from the improved status of women in society. Measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society are particularly relevant. The Division also promotes a gender perspective in family planning programmes. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has decided to focus on equal rights in family relations as a contribution to the Year and the Division is preparing a background report on the implementation of article 16 and other articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as they refer to equality in marriage and in family relations.

7. Interagency cooperation

145. Ad hoc interagency meetings of the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system on the International Year of the Family have been organized to develop a system-wide coordinated approach and actions. The first meeting was held on 13 and 14 March 1991, and was attended by representatives of 18 organizations, bodies and agencies; the second, on 5 and 6 March 1992, was attended by 15 representatives; the third meeting will be held from 10 to 12 March 1993.

146. The first meeting reviewed the family-related mandates and programmes of the participating organizations and agencies, examined the role of the United Nations system for the Year and identified ways of strengthening interagency cooperation. The second meeting reviewed progress made in preparing for the Year. It examined interagency cooperation and identified a number of joint ventures, such as a project on families at risk, a joint policy statement on the family, a world atlas on families and various promotional activities, including an interagency information kit. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the relevant activities of the United Nations system was also considered. The meeting recommended that, at its eighteenth session, the Joint United Nations Information Committee in July 1992 should consider promotional and information activities for the Year. It further recommended, among other things, that policy-making organs of the United Nations system should consider including an agenda item on the Year in their forthcoming sessions, that programme elements for the observance and follow-up of the Year should be included in the programme budgets for 1994 and 1995, and that the role and functions of the regional commissions in the Year should be strengthened. The Administrative Committee on Coordination approved the proposal that representatives of the major non-governmental organization committees on the family participate in the third interagency meeting.

147. Pursuant to the recommendation of the second ad hoc interagency meeting, the Joint United Nations Information Committee at its eighteenth session considered promotional and information activities for the Year. A report by the Department of Public Information was available to the Committee, containing

suggestions for interagency cooperation. Proposals included an interagency information kit, a half-hour video on single-parent families, an interagency calendar of events and a joint exhibit. The video project will be implemented jointly by the Department of Public Information, UNICEF, UNRWA and the secretariat for the Year. The Department of Public Information will also take the lead role in producing the information kit, supported by UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the secretariat for the Year. The Committee agreed to establish a working group on the Year in 1993 to develop further joint activities.

148. Other projects include the preparation of the joint policy statement on the family, for which the secretariat for the Year is taking the lead role; the world atlas on families, for which UNESCO is the lead agency; the statistical chart on families, prepared by the Statistical Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development; and the development of the conceptual framework for projects on families at risk, with WHO and UNICEF as lead agencies. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the secretariat for the Year are jointly funding a project entitled "Families: views from within", which will produce a book and films from the personal perspective of family members.

8. Coordinator and secretariat for the International Year of the Family

149. The Coordinator for the International Year of the Family, with his small secretariat, has engaged in a multi-pronged approach to the preparatory tasks assigned to the United Nations Secretariat, serving as a catalyst, facilitator and coordinator of action and setting into motion and intensifying substantive and organizational preparations. Attention has also been given to mobilizing resources for the Year.

150. Various aspects of national and international level involvement have been discussed in depth with senior officials of numerous Governments, several international and regional intergovernmental organizations, a large number of non-governmental organizations, the mass media and the private sector. The Coordinator has attended a number of international events on the family to promote the Year, as a result of which, several global initiatives and projects are taking place. He has also adopted innovative approaches to mobilizing resources and has mobilized significant financial and material contributions, in particular from the private sector and the business community.

151. One of the major tasks of the Coordinator has been to promote and anchor the substantive orientation of the Year, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/82 and 46/92, and allay any concerns there may have been in this regard. The results have been positive: there has been increasing support for the Year, and the number of partners has grown. Furthermore, the secretariat has sought to highlight in the preparatory process the numerous closely related substantive issues, in particular those related to children, women, disabled persons, ageing, crime, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. Attention has also been given to incorporating and complementing the concerns of other major areas of social and development.

152. The secretariat has prepared reports to the relevant intergovernmental bodies and has serviced their meetings on the Year. Governments have been offered guidelines for establishing national coordination mechanisms for the Year. A guide designed to facilitate planning of national programmes and an inventory of national action on the Year have been compiled, which it is hoped

will serve as useful references. Despite a severe shortage of resources, extensive documentation and materials to launch promotional and information activities have also been provided. Support is being given to the organization of substantive meetings and other events. To strengthen national and regional preparations, the secretariat has initiated four regional and interregional preparatory meetings, as described earlier in this report.

153. The secretariat is cooperating with various specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to support measures for the Year and implement joint projects. It organized the first and second ad hoc interagency meetings on the Year, will hold the third meeting and has taken the lead role in implementing several of the recommendations of the interagency meetings.

154. The secretariat has sought the active involvement of the non-governmental organizations at all levels and has provided substantive and organizational support for their activities. Opportunities for collaborative efforts are elicited and used. The support and close working relationship between the secretariat and the non-governmental organizations committees and groups have been further reinforced. Three informal consultative meetings of chairpersons and representatives of committees and groups on the family were held to explore ways of effective cooperation. Such meetings are envisaged throughout the preparation and observance of the Year.

155. The secretariat is promoting family-specific research and study, as well as the active involvement of research institutions and the academic community in the Year. More than 200 institutions, working in family-related areas in 116 countries, have been contacted. On this basis, efforts are being made to activate key institutes that will form the cell of a network of research institutions. Pursuant to the funding needs identified by the research institutions in developing countries, numerous foundations have been contacted to animate funding support for research on family issues. If the resources become available, it is planned to organize an expert meeting on family research.

156. As a vehicle for reportage on the state of current thinking on some of the pivotal issues concerning families, the secretariat has initiated an "IYF Occasional Papers Series" on substantive family issues. The Series is designed to be a source of high-quality current information, which would expand the exposure of an informed readership to specific issues. Three papers in the Series are scheduled for publication by the end of 1992 and several more are planned for 1993 and 1994.

157. Work is proceeding on the creation of a database on family issues, to serve as an international source of information on substantive family issues and on activities, institutions, individuals and publications relating to families, in cooperation with existing databases. The project will be implemented with the material and technical support of Olivetti Austria GmbH, which has already donated to the secretariat computer equipment to initiate the project and has designated the project as its contribution towards the Year.

158. The secretariat has been responsible for the substantive management of the Voluntary Fund for the Year. It has reviewed requests for support from the Fund and prepared funding recommendations. It has carried out the substantive work for the allocation of the Fund's resources for various operational activities for the Year. Within its modest staff resources, it has also pursued an active fund-raising campaign, covering both public and private sectors.

159. As a means of promoting action for the Year and recognizing valuable contributions, testimonials designating their recipients as patrons of the Year are awarded to individuals, government bodies and institutions, national coordinating committees for the Year and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in recognition of exemplary support of and significant action in preparation for the Year. A total of 58 testimonials have been awarded so far.

160. Within the limited resources available, a promotional and information campaign is being carried out. The official emblem of the Year, guidelines on its use in all official languages of the United Nations, a booklet on the Year in three languages and two introductory posters and a campaign poster in six languages have been disseminated worldwide. Several thousands of copies of these materials have already been distributed and requests for more copies are being met. The Sales Section of the United Nations Secretariat has brought out several souvenir articles on the Year; additional articles are being developed. Negotiations are also being held with producers regarding other souvenir articles. Steps have been taken for the issuance of a series of greetings cards and postal stamps to commemorate the Year by the UNICEF Greeting Card Operation and the United Nations Postal Administration, respectively. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has been asked to encourage postal administrations throughout the world to issue commemorative stamp series on the Year. The secretariat has been actively endorsing promotional campaigns and initiatives in support of the Year, such as the "First Ladies for the Family" or the "North-Americans for IYF". An initiative on "IYF Patron Cities" is being developed, as is a theme song for the Year.

161. "The Family: Bulletin on the International Year of the Family", which disseminates information on the preparations for the Year, continues to be published in three languages. Three issues were published in 1991 and four in 1992. Four issues are planned for 1993. Their number may be increased in 1994, subject to the availability of resources.

162. In carrying out the promotional and information campaign, the secretariat has received generous and valuable support from other entities in the United Nations Secretariat, particularly the former Department of Conference Services and the Department of Public Information. Valuable material donations have been received from Governments and private firms, which are listed in section C below.' The work of the secretariat has been facilitated by the generous staff secondments made by the Government of Canada, initially for two years, and the Government of Finland, for six months.

III. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE YEAR

163. The Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/133. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited all States and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Fund. The resources of the Fund are being used to carry out preparatory activities for the Year; to support national action and projects, especially in developing countries, that directly promote the objectives of the Year; to carry out technical assistance programmes; to support national capacity-building for long-term family-oriented policies; and to support research, data collection, information exchange and experience-sharing between countries on family issues.

164. Several contributions to the Fund have been received from Governments, organizations, the private sector and individuals. The major portion of the resources of the Fund has already been allocated for a selected number of crucial activities and projects. Additional generous contributions are an absolute necessity to ensure financial support for other critically important measures for the further preparation and observance of the Year.

A. Resources of the Fund

165. As of 20 November 1992, a total cash contribution of US$ 1,255,185 has been deposited to the Fund, of which US$ 73,055 has come from Governments and US$ 1,182,130 from organizations and individuals. A group of business and professional leaders from Hong Kong has demonstrated great generosity in supporting the Year and has contributed over one million dollars to the Fund. In addition, Governments have pledged contributions totalling US$ 381,385. This brings the deposited and pledged contributions from governments to a total of US$ 454,440. The total resources of the Fund, deposited and pledged, amount to US$ 1,636,570.

166. Table 1 provides an overview of the resources of the Fund and a breakdown of the contributions deposited and pledged by Governments and by individuals and organizations. Table 2 lists the contributions deposited and pledged by Governments.

Table 1. Resources of the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family, as of 20 November 1992
(United States dollars)

Source of contribution	Deposited	Pledges	Total
Governments	73 055	381 385	454 440
Individuals and organizations	1 182 130	--	1 182 130
Total	1 255 185	381 385	1 636 570

Table 2. Contributions by Governments to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family, as of 20 November 1992
(United States dollars)

Country	Deposited	Pledged	Total
Austria	30 435	--	30 435
Benin	--	1 000	1 000
France	--	38 460	38 460
Germany	--	324 675	324 675
Greece	10 505	--	10 505
Holy See	2 073	--	2 073

continued

Table 2 (continued)

Country	Deposited	Pledges	Total
Jordan	2 000	--	2 000
Morocco	--	5 000	5 000
Namibia	1 000	--	1 000
Panama	3 750	11 250	15 000
Philippines	500	--	500
Poland	4 500	--	4 500
Portugal	8 123	--	8 123
Saint Lucia	--	1 000	1 000
Spain (Province of Balear)	500	--	500
Turkey	9 669	--	9 669
Total	73 055	381 385	454 440

B. Allocation of resources

167. As of 15 November, resource allocations totalling US$ 755,986 have been made from the Fund to carry out preparatory activities and to support projects specific to the family and to the International Year of the Family. Table 3 breaks down the allocation of resources from the Fund into six categories.

Table 3. Allocation of resources from the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the Family, as of 20 November 1992 (United States dollars)

Item	Amount
Regional and interregional preparatory meetings, including participation by least developed countries	314 986
Support to projects of bodies and organizations in the United Nations system	110 200
Grants and support to projects of non-governmental organizations and others	80 400
Substantive studies and publications	70 000
Public information and promotion	69 400
Database on the family	61 000
Technical, advisory and substantive services	50 000
Total	755 986

C. In-kind contributions

168. In addition to cash contributions to the Voluntary Fund, several Governments and firms in the private sector have made in-kind contributions to the

secretariat for the Year. Table 4 lists the in-kind contributions made by Governments. Table 5 lists the in-kind contributions made by the private sector.

Table 4. In-kind contributions to the secretariat for the International Year of the Family by Governments, as of 20 November 1992

Country	Type of contribution
Canada	Non-reimbursable loan of staff for two years
Finland	Non-reimbursable loan of staff for six months
	Printing of booklet on the Year in English, 60,000 copies
France	Printing of booklet on the Year in French, 6,000 copies
Spain	Printing of booklet on the Year in Spanish, 15,000 copies

Table 5. In-kind contributions to the secretariat for the International Year of the Family by the private sector, as of 20 November 1992

Firm	Type of contribution
Austrian Workers' Compensation Board	Printing of booklet on the Year in English, 7,500 copies
Hans Helf KG	IYF stickers, 50,000 copies
Olivetti Austria GmbH	Data-processing equipment (6 workstations plus server, 1 laser printer, 1 docking station and 1 monitor)
Philips Dictation Systems	Voice Manager dictation system
Wiener Graphische Kunstansalt, Otto Sares GmbH	Paper for and printing of a large quantity of stationery for the Year
Wiener Papier Grosshandlung GmbH	A large quantity of Pacific paper for producing a special folder for the Year
Wang Austria	Loan of a word-processing workstation for three years

D. Resource requirements and mobilization of funds

169. As will be seen from the above, most of the resources available have been committed to carrying out selected basic preparatory measures. The secretariat for the Year is receiving increasing numbers of requests for financial support for projects to prepare and observe the Year at the national and local levels. As more Governments of developing countries finalize and begin to implement their national programmes, it will be necessary to provide financial and

technical support to ensure that there will be an effective observance of the Year, particularly in the least developed countries, which may be hindered by the lack of resources or of technical expertise. It will also be important to provide critically needed seed-money support for projects by the grass-roots voluntary sector. Furthermore, as the final stage of the preparatory phase is reached and measures for observing the Year begin, demand for more public information and promotional material will have to be met and related activities carried out. Substantive work on follow-up measures that may be deemed necessary will have to be undertaken.

170. The secretariat for the Year will continue to mobilize resources for the Voluntary Fund from Governments, particularly those that have not yet contributed, and from the private sector, the business community and individuals, in order to support activities for observance of the Year, particularly at the national level. Such extrabudgetary resources would be much needed in order to supplement the resources for implementing activities that are currently being carried out under the regular budget of the United Nations.

IV. OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

171. The extent to which the objectives of the Year will be achieved will reflect, to a large measure, the extent and effectiveness of measures undertaken to observe the Year at various levels. Pursuant to the General Assembly's decision in its resolution 44/82, paragraph 2, the focus of activity is at the local and national levels. Governments should develop and implement national activities in observance of the Year, with the involvement and collaboration of the voluntary and private sectors. In keeping with the strategy regarding the programme of the Year, appropriate specific measures must be determined at the national and local levels, with regard to substantive concerns and priorities. A guide designed to facilitate planning national programmes for the observance of the Year at the national level will be available to members of the Commission for Social Development as a background document.

172. A wide spectrum of promotional and information activities should be an integral part of local and national level activities. A more effective and extensive use of the channels of mass communication should be an important priority. The commencement of the Year should be seen as an opportunity for publicity and promotional efforts to achieve a maximum impact. Inaugurational events may be held, in particular at the highest political levels. Other specific measures may include statements and speeches on the observance of the Year by the head of State or Government, an announcement of policy and programme intentions on specific family issues, and the observance of a national family day or week and family festivals.

173. More significantly, the programme elements for the observance of the Year at the national level should augment as effectively as possible the achievement of the substantive goals of the Year. It is particularly important that in every country the Year should generate serious reflection on a well-conceived national strategy to benefit families, which should lead to the integration of a strong family component in national development strategies and plans, with full consideration of the impact of those strategies and plans on families. Achievement of this objective requires, first and foremost, the enactment of family legislation and the adoption of family-oriented policies. This must be supported by sound research on the situation of families, assessment of

existing services and the identification of unmet needs. Initiating and advancing these processes should be an integral part of the programme of observance of the Year.

174. The strategy for the Year also calls for regional and international action to support national efforts. Effective and practical measures should be identified and carried out at the regional and world levels to mark the observance of the Year, on the basis of the concepts suggested by the draft programme for the preparation for the Year (E/CN.5/1991/2). Concrete proposals and directions in this regard may emanate from the deliberations of the preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year, and from the regional preparatory meetings. At this stage, consideration may be given to holding a formal inauguration of the International Year of the Family during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and special plenary sessions on the family at its forty-ninth session.

175. Pursuant to the concept of international support for the activities of th non-governmental organizations and the private sector, suggested by the draft programme for the Year, consideration may also be given to providing them with organizational and substantive support for the organization of global events in observance of the Year.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 14 (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 14 (E/1991/35), chap. III, para. 39.

3/ Ibid., 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1992/24), chap. I, sect. C. See also ibid., chap. III, paras. 64-65.